

As a lifelong resident of Glacier County, I'd like to share with this committee information regarding my family's position in relation to the MATL Powerline Project. I speak as the court-appointed guardian for my 84 year old mother, Shirley Salois, who is the owner of the property that MATL wishes to cross.

I would like the committee to know that our family has never been opposed to the construction of this line or utilizing our land for this project. On the contrary, we welcome the production and development of alternative energy sources, which create jobs and increase tax bases. However, we are in opposition to the placement of this line on one particular piece of Shirley's property, which contain wetlands, an area of historic significance, and an area of undisturbed biological diversity that is the habitat of native plants and animals.

In reference to Chief Business Officer Rob McFarlane's article from the Great Falls Tribune's July 12 issue, he stated the project would not harm those areas. Our family has offered an alternative path for the MATL Company, which would accomodate their needs, satisfy our wants, and would be less costly for everyone involved. For reasons unclear to us, MATL has chosen to ignore our reasonable and logical solutions, have declared condemnation proceedings against my family's property using the power of Eminent Domain, and forced us into a costly court battle.

If we allow this current bill to pass through our state legislature it would give private companys, both foreign and domestic, more power than they already posess, enabling them to condemn private property. I believe this power should remain in the hands of government as it has for the last past century. Passage of this bill, in my opinion, would create more problems than it solves. "IF IT AIN'T BROKE, DON'T FIX IT!"

Thank you for your unbiased consideration.
Larry Salois, Spokesperson for the Shirley Salois' family
Cut Bank